



[7590-01-P]

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[NRC-2012-0114]

In the Matter of

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IA-12-009

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Mr. James Chaisson

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Order Prohibiting Involvement in NRC-Licensed Activities

I

Mr. James Chaisson was employed from April 10, 2009, through April 30, 2010, as an area supervisor and lead radiographer for the Wyoming operations of Texas Gamma Ray, LLC (TGR or Licensee), whose corporate offices are located in Pasadena, Texas. TGR is the former holder of License No. 42-29303-01 issued on January 6, 2009, by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the Commission), pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 34. The license authorized industrial radiographic operations in accordance with conditions specified therein. The license was terminated at the licensee's request on July 25, 2011.

II

From June 4, 2009, through November 30, 2010, the NRC conducted a safety and security inspection of the use of byproduct material for industrial radiographic operations conducted under TGR's former NRC license. As a result of this inspection, the NRC's Office of Investigations (OI), Region IV, initiated two investigations (OI Report Nos. 04-2009-066 and

04-2011-034) to determine, in part, whether Mr. Chaisson: (1) deliberately stored radiographic exposure devices at a location he knew was not authorized by TGR's radioactive material license, and (2) deliberately failed to implement NRC security requirements for the use, storage, and protection of licensed material for radiographic operations.

By letter dated February 23, 2012 (ML12055A162), the NRC informed Mr. Chaisson that the NRC was considering escalated enforcement action for an apparent violation of the NRC's deliberate misconduct rule, 10 CFR 30.10. The NRC offered Mr. Chaisson the opportunity to request a predecisional enforcement conference (PEC), or request alternative dispute resolution (ADR) with the NRC in an attempt to resolve issues associated with this matter. During a March 19, 2012, conference call between Mr. Chaisson and NRC staff, Mr. Chaisson indicated that he was not interested in a PEC or ADR. Mr. Chaisson stated that he would, however, submit a written response to the NRC's February 23rd letter. On March 26, 2012, Region IV received a written response from Mr. Chaisson postmarked March 23, 2012 (ML12095A366).

Based on a review of the information in Mr. Chaisson's March 2012, letter, and the results of the inspection and OI investigations, the NRC has concluded that Mr. Chaisson twice engaged in deliberate misconduct in violation of 10 CFR 30.10(a)(1). First, Mr. Chaisson engaged in deliberate misconduct that caused Texas Gamma Ray, LLC (TGR), at the time an NRC licensee, to be in violation of License Condition 19 of its NRC Radioactive Material License, which required TGR to comply with NRC security requirements. Mr. Chaisson chose to store a radiographic exposure device at a leased facility on Elk Street in Rock Springs, Wyoming, even though he knew the facility did not comply with applicable NRC security requirements pertaining to the use, storage, and protection of licensed material. He periodically

stored the radiographic exposure device at this location from December 2009 through April 30, 2010.

Second, by storing the radiographic exposure device at the Elk Street location, Mr. Chaisson engaged in deliberate misconduct that caused TGR, at the time an NRC licensee, to be in violation of License Condition 11 of its NRC Radioactive Material License, which required TGR to limit the storage of radioactive material approved on the license to temporary job sites in NRC jurisdiction. Specifically, Mr. Chaisson chose to store a radiographic exposure device at the leased facility on Elk Street in Rock Springs, Wyoming, even though he knew the facility was not an authorized storage location listed on the license.

Mr. Chaisson is a radiographer with 27 years experience, 8 of those years as a radiation safety officer (RSO). TGR assigned him as the area supervisor and lead radiographer for Wyoming operations and as such, he was responsible for TGR's radiographic operations in Wyoming. He was listed as the person to contact in case of an emergency in Wyoming. Mr. Chaisson was in possession of a copy of TGR's NRC license and was knowledgeable of the restrictions and security requirements associated with the use and storage of radioactive material. Mr. Chaisson admitted that he stored the radiographic exposure device at the Elk Street location from December 2009 through April 30, 2010. However, Mr. Chaisson asserted that he had only done as TGR managers instructed him when he stored the radiographic exposure device at the Elk Street location. The NRC has concluded that this statement lacks credibility. Mr. Chaisson's statements varied each time OI interviewed him, and again in his March 2012, letter to the NRC, as to which manager provided him with the instruction to store licensed material at the Elk Street location. At first he claimed the corporate RSO gave him the permission, but later when he found out that the corporate RSO had been out of the country,

and not reachable by phone, he stated it was the Operations Manager who gave him the permission. As a trained RSO, Mr. Chaisson is fully knowledgeable of the requirements for storage of radiographic exposure devices and knew that the devices should not be stored at a location not authorized by the license. Also, he had previously met the security requirements for storing the radiographic exposure devices inside his company truck at his former residence. Yet, he claimed that he was not responsible for meeting the security requirements at the leased facility; a claim disputed by multiple TGR officials who pointed out he was responsible for Wyoming operations, including meeting NRC license requirements (as he had done at his residence).

In addition, Mr. Chaisson arranged to have another NRC licensee lease the Elk Street facility just prior to the expiration of TGR's lease of the same facility. Mr. Chaisson then went to work for the other NRC licensee and instructed TGR to remove their radiographic exposure devices, which TGR did. Mr. Chaisson then ensured all the security requirements were met at the same facility for his new employer.

The NRC concluded that Mr. Chaisson's claims were not credible; that Mr. Chaisson understood the terms of TGR's license and NRC security requirements; that he knew at the time that the Elk Street facility was not an authorized storage location; and that security requirements had not been met at that location.

III

Based on the above, the NRC has concluded that Mr. James Chaisson, a former area site supervisor and lead radiographer employed by Texas Gamma Ray, LLC, violated

10 CFR 30.10(a)(1) by engaging in deliberate misconduct that caused Texas Gamma Ray, LLC, to be in violation of License Conditions 11 and 19 of NRC license 42-29303-01.

The NRC must be able to rely on licensees and their employees to comply with the NRC requirements, including the requirement that specific licensees comply with their license conditions. Mr. Chaisson's actions caused the licensee to violate their license conditions and have raised serious doubt as to whether he can be relied upon to comply with the NRC requirements and to provide complete and accurate information to the NRC.

Consequently, I lack the requisite reasonable assurance that licensed activities can be conducted in compliance with the Commission's requirements and that health and safety of the public will be protected if Mr. Chaisson were permitted at this time to be involved in NRC-licensed activities. Therefore, the public health and safety and interest require that Mr. Chaisson be prohibited from any involvement in NRC-licensed activities for a period of 3 years from the effective date of this Order, as defined in Section V. Additionally, Mr. Chaisson is required to notify the NRC of his first employment in NRC-licensed activities for a period of 1 year following the prohibition period.

IV

Accordingly, pursuant to Sections 81, 161b, 161i, 161o, 182, and 186 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended and the Commission's regulations in 10 CFR 2.202, 10 CFR 30.10 and 10 CFR Parts 20 and 34, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Mr. James Chaisson is prohibited for 3 years from the effective date of this Order, as defined in Section V, from engaging in NRC-licensed activities. NRC-licensed activities are those activities that are conducted pursuant to a specific or general license issued by the NRC, including, but not limited to, those activities of Agreement State licensees conducted pursuant to the authority granted by 10 CFR 150.20. Specifically, Mr. Chaisson is prohibited from performing, supervising, assisting or otherwise engaging in (1) industrial radiographic operations for an Agreement State licensee that are conducted in non-Agreement States, in areas of exclusive Federal jurisdiction within Agreement States, or in offshore waters under an NRC general license granted pursuant to 10 CFR 150.20; (2) industrial radiographic operations for an NRC licensee, including, but not limited to, radiography conducted under the authority of a license issued pursuant to 10 CFR Part 34; and (3) any other licensed activity under NRC jurisdiction.

2. As of the effective date of this Order, if Mr. Chaisson is currently involved in NRC-licensed activity, he must immediately cease those activities, and inform the NRC of the name, address, and telephone number of the employer, and provide a copy of this Order to the employer.

3. For a period of 1 year after the 3-year period of prohibition has expired, Mr. Chaisson shall, within 20 days of acceptance of his first employment offer involving NRC-licensed activities or his becoming involved in NRC-licensed activities, as defined in paragraph IV.1 above, provide notice to the Director, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, of the name, address, and telephone number of the employer or entity where he is, or will be, involved in the NRC-licensed activities. In the notification, Mr. Chaisson shall include a statement of his commitment to compliance with NRC

regulatory requirements and the basis for why the Commission should have confidence that he will now comply with applicable NRC requirements.

The Director, Office of Enforcement, may, in writing, relax or rescind any of the above conditions upon demonstration by Mr. Chaisson of good cause.

V

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.202, Mr. James Chaisson must, and any other person adversely affected by this Order may, submit an answer to this Order within 30 days of its issuance date. In addition, Mr. Chaisson and any other person adversely affected by this Order may request a hearing on this Order within 30 days of its issuance date. Where good cause is shown, consideration will be given to extending the time to answer or request a hearing. A request for extension of time must be directed to the Director, Office of Enforcement, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and include a statement of good cause of the extension.

All documents filed in the NRC adjudicatory proceedings, including a request for a hearing, a petition for leave to intervene, any motion or other document filed in the proceeding prior to the submission of a request for hearing or petition to intervene, and documents filed by interested governmental entities participating under 10 CFR 2.315(c), must be filed in accordance with NRC E-Filing rule (72 FR 49139, August 28, 2007). The E-Filing process requires participants to submit and serve all adjudicatory documents over the internet, or in some cases to mail copies on electronic storage media. Participants may not submit paper copies of their filings unless they seek an exemption in accordance with the procedures described below.

To comply with the procedural requirements of E-Filing, at least 10 days prior to the filing deadline, the participant should contact the Office of the Secretary by email at hearing.docket@nrc.gov, or by telephone at 301-415-1677, to request (1) a digital identification (ID) certificate, which allows the participant (or its counsel or representative) to digitally sign documents and access the E-Submittal server for any proceeding in which it is participating; and (2) advise the Secretary that the participant will be submitting a request or petition for hearing (even in instances in which the participant, or its counsel or representative, already holds an NRC-issued digital certificate). Based on this information, the Secretary will establish an electronic docket for the hearing in this proceeding if the Secretary has not already established an electronic docket.

Information about applying for a digital ID certificate is available on the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals/apply-certificates.html>. System requirements for accessing the E-Submittal server are detailed in the NRC's "Guidance for Electronic Submission," which is available on the agency's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>. Participants may attempt to use other software not listed on the Web site, but should note that the NRC's E-Filing system does not support unlisted software, and the NRC Meta System Help Desk will not be able to offer assistance in using unlisted software.

If a participant is electronically submitting a document to the NRC in accordance with the E-Filing rule, the participant must file the document using the NRC's online, web-based submission form. In order to serve documents through the Electronic Information Exchange System, users will be required to install a web browser plug-in from the NRC's Web site.

Further information on the web-based submission form, including the installation of the web browser plug-in, is available on the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>.

Once a participant has obtained a digital ID certificate and a docket has been created, the participant can then submit a request for a hearing or petition for leave to intervene. Submissions should be in portable document format (PDF) in accordance with the NRC guidance available on the NRC's public Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>. A filing is considered complete at the time the documents are submitted through the NRC's E-Filing system. To be timely, an electronic filing must be submitted to the E-Filing system no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the due date. Upon receipt of a transmission, the E-Filing system time-stamps the document and sends the submitter an e-mail notice confirming receipt of the document. The E-Filing system also distributes an e-mail notice that provides access to the document to the NRC's Office of the General Counsel and any others who have advised the Office of the Secretary that they wish to participate in the proceeding, so that the filer need not serve the document on those participants separately. Therefore, applicants and other participants (or their counsel or representative) must apply for and receive a digital ID certificate before a hearing request/petition to intervene is filed so that they can obtain access to the document via the E-Filing system.

A person filing electronically using the agency's adjudicatory E-Filing system may seek assistance by contracting the NRC Meta System Help Desk thorough the "Contact Us" link located on the NRC's Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/site-help/e-submittals.html>, by e-mail at MSHD.Resource@nrc.gov, or by a toll free call at 1- 866-672-7640. The NRC Meta System

Help Desk is available between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, excluding government holidays.

Participants who believe that they have a good cause for not submitting documents electronically must file an extension request, in accordance with 10 CFR 2.302(g), with their initial paper filing requesting authorization to continue to submit documents in paper format. Such filings must be submitted by: (1) first class mail addressed to the Office of the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, DC 20555-0001, Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff; or (2) courier, express mail, or expedited delivery service to the Office of the Secretary, Sixteenth Floor, One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, Attention: Rulemaking and Adjudications Staff. Participants filing a document in this manner are responsible for serving the document on all other participants. Filing is considered complete by first-class mail as of the time of deposit in the mail, or by courier, express mail, or expedited delivery service upon depositing the document with the provider of the service. A presiding officer, having granted an exemption request from using E-Filing, may require a participant or party using E-Filing if the presiding officer subsequently determines that the reason for granting the exemption from use of E-Filing no longer exists.

Documents submitted in adjudicatory proceedings will appear in the NRC's electronic hearing docket, which is available to the public at <http://ehd1.nrc.gov/ehd>, unless excluded pursuant to an order of the Commission, or the presiding officer. Participants are requested not to include personal privacy information, such as social security numbers, home addresses, or home phone numbers in their filings, unless an NRC regulation or other law requires submission of such information. With respect to copyrighted works, except for limited excerpts that serve

the purpose of the adjudicatory filings and would constitute a Fair Use application, participants are requested not to include copyrighted materials in their submissions.

If a person other than Mr. James Chaisson requests a hearing, that person shall set forth with particularity the manner in which his interest is adversely affected by this Order and shall address the criteria set forth in 10 CFR 2.309(d).

If a hearing is requested by Mr. Chaisson or any other person whose interest is adversely affected, the Commission will issue an Order designating the time and place of any hearings. If a hearing is held, the issue to be considered at such a hearing shall be whether this Order should be sustained. In the absence of any request for hearing or ADR, or written approval of an extension of time in which to request a hearing, the effective date of this Order (the date that the provisions specified in Section IV above become final and effective) shall be 30 days from the issuance date of this Order without further order or proceedings. If an extension of

time for requesting a hearing has been approved, the effective date of this Order shall be when the extension expires if a hearing request has not been received. If a hearing or ADR is requested, the effective date of this Order shall be determined in accordance with the hearing or ADR process.

A REQUEST FOR HEARING SHALL NOT STAY THE IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS ORDER.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Dated at Rockville, MD, this 15 day of May 2012

/RA/

Roy P. Zimmerman,

Director, Office of Enforcement

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